

Late goals put Pegasus out of Smith Cup

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS 3 : PEGASUS 0

WYCOMBE Wanderers, with four changes, won today's Smith Memorial Cup semi-final against a Pegasus side which will be little changed for next week's Amateur Cup tie against Hendon. But Pegasus held their own until two late goals made certain for Wycombe.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Birch, Beck; Thomas, Lewis, Gale; James, Blair, Hay, Bates, Horseman.

Pegasus: Jarvis; Turnbull, Saxby; Vaughan, Dougall, Saunders; D. Smith, Wood, Jackson, Flann, A. Smith.

Referee: Sgt. B. Parsons (R.A.F. Lyneham).

A lively pace was set from the start and both goals had early escapes, Pegasus's when James shot over the bar from close in and Wycombe's when Beck stopped a fierce shot from right winger D. Smith almost on the goal-line.

A little later Vaughan dribbled through for Pegasus, but his powerful shot sped across the mouth of the goal.

Pegasus looked dangerous in some sweeping attacks, in which Wood was prominent. But the home defence covered well and comparatively few shots reached Brown.

WYCOMBE SCORE

Wycombe, however, scored first. A fine pass by Bates, in excellent form after several weeks on the injured list, enabled right winger JAMES to beat Jarvis after 19 minutes.

Wycombe now pressed hard and Jarvis made a brilliant save from a snap shot by Hay. Then Bates saw a fine, long-range shot cannon off the cross-bar with Jarvis beaten.

Pegasus mounted some strong counter-attacks, but their finishing was poor. Flann, the bearded inside left, got through a great deal of work, but missed

one good chance from an accurate Smith centre.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Pegasus 0.

Pegasus were a little unlucky when the busy Flann crashed in a shot from point-blank range. Brown managed to divert it by throwing out his hand at the last moment.

Johnny Birch, 18-year-old reserve right back, who showed promising form in his first appearance in the Wycombe senior side, was injured in one clash, but was able to resume after treatment.

Wycombe appealed unsuccessfully for a penalty when Bates was brought down in the area.

Flann almost diverted the ball past the home goalkeeper in a promising right-wing move by Pegasus, but lack of a thrustful spearhead nullified most of the Pegasus counter-attacks.

It was still Wycombe who set the pace and, in a series of combined onslaughts towards the end BLAIR flashed the ball into the goal five minutes before the end and BATES added a third a minute later.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3
PEGASUS 0

WYCOMBE NEW BOY IN FORM

Wycombe W. 3 Pegasus 0

PEGASUS looked a pale shadow of the famous Cup-fighting side of the past when they met Wycombe Wanderers in the semi-final of the Smith Memorial Cup competition at High Wycombe.

But although their lack-lustre attack offered little serious threat to the competent home backs, a stubborn defence and some excellent goalkeeping by P. Jarvis held the speedier Wycombe men well in check until the last five minutes.

The Pegasus team, largely experimental, achieved little cohesion. The Wycombe backs and halves covered so well that centre-forward Jackson and wingers Alan and David Smith were almost blotted out, and again forced to pass back to their overworked wing halves Saunders and Vaughan.

Only Flamm, a tremendous worker at inside left, ever looked likely to score.

For Wycombe newcomer Johnny Birch, 18-year-old right back, showed great promise in his first senior game, and Alistair Lewis shone in a new role at centre half.

Wycombe improved steadily as the game progressed, but after James had given them the lead in the 19th minute from a pass by Bates, they battled without success against the dour defence of Turnbull, Saxby, and Dougall.

But they finally shattered Pegasus with two goals in the last three minutes from Blair and Bates.